

From:
Subject:

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#398]

Section 1: Jane Hamilton

Your personal
and contact
details
1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? * a member of the public

Select a topic Tell us your vision for the area
to comment
on

4.2 What do The best existing assets and characteristics of this part of Scotland are:
you think are The perceived romance and charm, in scenery, history and lifestyle.
the best, The concept of "Highland Hospitality"
existing The opportunities for tapping into, and improving, the above Genealogy tourism.
assets and The difficulty, in future development, is to recognise the above but, at the same time, balance it with
characteristics the needs and visions of more local communities
of the area?
Think of your
favourite
landscapes,
settlements,
journeys,
events and
meeting
places.

4.4 How can these assets and characteristics best be safeguarded, improved or used to provide economic or community growth?

For instance, providing an infrastructure that supports access to the above. In my own particular home area we have access by bridge and ferry. Quite often visitors coming off the ferry, who have no transport, are immediately disgruntled by not having local transport to give them access to the places they have planned to see. A tie up of transport would be of huge benefit in creating satisfied tourists, who would go away with positive experiences to pass on to others who might be contemplating a visit to a specific Island or rural area.

We have many overseas visitors who make the visit to trace their ancestors and see where their roots are. Genealogy is

big business!

Certainly the length and time of a journey from the Central Belt and beyond is off putting, not to mention the price of fuel. (and don't get me started on the state of the roads!). Municipal airports that connect to hub airports, would improve access for visitors as well as giving locals more immediate and convenient services to other areas, both to other islands and to the mainland, where appropriate.

Timetables are very difficult to co-ordinate but, in my opinion, there needs to be a person/department for taking responsibility for this and having a "helicopter view" of the whole regional transport systems which are currently available and those which greatly need improving. A mammoth task but one that would pay dividends and add kudos to the local authority's far sighted planning.

I realise this is only a partial answer to this Section but it is an area I have been aware of for years and I am conscious that nothing has improved or changed.
